Foreword

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We are delighted that Elsevier has introduced Cardiac Electrophysiology Clinics (EP Clinics) for the electrophysiology community. Although we have numerous excellent peer-reviewed journals for new clinical and basic research in electrophysiology, we have lacked a high-quality review journal that all electrophysiologists can use as a reference. Textbooks provide excellent reviews, but because of the long publication process, the newest information is often missing.

The EP Clinics will have a much shorter publication time and we hope to bridge the gap between textbooks and peer-reviewed journals. In addition, an editor’s job is to filter and focus the literature by selecting article topics, so that busy clinicians can easily review the most pertinent issues of the time, and the EP Clinics will certainly do that.

Elsevier has 49 publications in the Clinics series for physicians, and the addition of EP Clinics brings this total to 50. Publications in the series are indexed by the major indexing services (eg, PubMed, Science Citation Index, Excerpta Medica), and several in the series are published concurrently in other languages. Furthermore, availability of these publications through MD Consult and ScienceDirect increases their reach to millions of readers worldwide.

We are pleased to serve as consulting editors for the EP Clinics and hope to bring forth quarterly issues edited by leaders in the field. The goal of this series is to publish issues focused on one topic at a time. The editors will be selected based on their contribution to the particular topic and be responsible for assembling reviews of contemporary issues that are relevant to clinical electrophysiologists and written by thought leaders in the field.

Practicing electrophysiologists and experts in the field will find these reviews useful and authoritative, because even experts in a field have a narrow area of expertise and need colleagues to filter out the most important issues lying outside this field. The wider cardiology community and fellows in training within the various subspecialties of cardiology will find these reviews helpful for keeping abreast of the newest developments. Many of these issues will also be of interest to other physicians and house staff.

We have inaugurated the series with a review on “Sudden Cardiac Death,” which is a topic that defined and launched clinical electrophysiology as a specialty more than 3 decades ago. Although it is not possible to cover the entire field, we hope that the readers will find that topics relevant to current practice are well represented.

We thank our contributors for their insightful reviews and our colleagues who are working on editing their own forthcoming issues. We especially want to thank Barbara Cohen-Kligerman at Elsevier who had the vision and provided steadfast support to see this project come to fruition. We have enjoyed working with the staff at Elsevier and look forward to ongoing collaboration in serving the electrophysiology community. We welcome feedback from readers who have ideas for improving the EP Clinics or suggestions for topics they would like to see covered in future issues.
Finally, although this has been a labor of love, it has not happened without sacrifices, especially from our families. We acknowledge their love and support and dedicate this issue to them.

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DEDICATION

Ranjan Thakur: To my wife Niti, our son Jay, and to my mother.
Andrea Natale: To my wife Marina and our daughters Veronica and Eleonora.